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SOURCE Hungaria.

WRITER TAKES ISSUE WITH REPORT
ON STRENGTH OF HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES

In issue No 30 of Magyarország Esemenyek, the publication of the Hungarian Section, Education and Information Center, National Committee for a Free Europe, the author of Chapter VII, entitled "Defense-Sport," comments on events in Hungary in June 1951. This chapter, which is devoted to the organization of the Hungarian Armed Forces, contains a number of serious mistakes.

According to the Magyarország Esemenyek author, the Hungarian Armed Forces consisted of one armored, one motorized, four normal-size and four small-size divisions in June 1951. Peace strength of normal- and small-size divisions is 10,000 and 5,000 respectively. The writer states that, with headquarters and service troops, the total strength of the armed forces is approximately 140,000. There are now four age classes in military service, 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930. These latter data are correct, but the writer's deductions as to the size of the armed forces is inaccurate.

It is well known that the strength of a military-age class is approximately equivalent to one percent of the country's population. If the present population of Hungary is estimated at 9 million, as contrasted with the author's estimate of 9,300,000, a military-age class would yield 90,000 soldiers. As a rule, one third of each age class is exempt from military duty because of physical and mental handicaps, or as essential workers. Thus, each class consists of 60,000 persons fit for military service. On the basis of four age classes, it is safe to assume that Hungary has 240,000 persons under arms. However, this number does not include the professional officers, noncommissioned officers, and other soldiers of different age classes. According to a conservative estimate, this latter group amounts to 15,000 persons.

In view of these calculations, the present strength of Hungary's armed forces may be estimated at 255,000, not counting the border guard units. This estimate is corroborated by Ost-Probleme, a magazine published by the Information Services Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Germany. Issue No 29,

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21 July 1951, of Ost-Probleme states that the strength of the Hungarian People's Army in 1950 amounted to 110,000. The magazine also indicates that by the end of 1951 this number will be doubled. According to the December 1950 issue of Nadak Utjan of the Central Information Service of MHBK (Fraternal Association of Hungarian Veterans), the strength of the armed forces at the end of 1950 was far above 100,000, and this number will be doubled by the end of 1951, due to the military service of the new age classes.

As to the strength of the Hungarian air forces, the Magyarorszagi Esemenyek author gives the following locations and descriptions:

Locations

Types and No of Units

Matyasfold
Szolnok
Kecskemet
Pecs

Units of liaison planes
One bomber group
One fighter group
One close-reconnaissance squadron

This tabulation is inaccurate, as the real breakdown of the air forces is as follows:

Locations

Types and No of Units

Kecskemet
Tapolca
Szolnok

2 fighter groups
2 fighter groups
One air transportation unit; air
training center
One close-reconnaissance squadron;
liaison and paratrooper units
Fighter plane training center
Fighter plane training center
Jet training center

Szeged

Szekesfehervar

Bergoni

Ligetfalu (Csepel Island)

Contrary to the author's allegation, there is no bomber group stationed at Szolnok, and bomber tasks will be accomplished by fighter bombers. Pecs has no close-reconnaissance squadron. The author also omits entirely the existence of paratrooper units. At present, there are three paratrooper battalions.

The writer mentions a "South Army Group" stationed at Csurgó with headquarters at Kaposvár. This is entirely erroneous, because this army unit does not exist at all. Kaposvár is the location of a division headquarters established in 1950. -- Janos Makra Z.

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